The Water We Drink

A Report of the City of Menomonie Water Utility

An Annual Water Quality Report has been prepared to meet the requirements of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) adopted by Congress, and to keep you informed about the excellent water services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Our water source is drawn from four wells in the Mount Simon Aquifer, with the three main wells having iron treatment, radium removal, chlorination, and fluoridation. Well #3 is located downtown, along Crescent Street overlooking Lake Menomin; Well #4 is located on Tainter Street in a residential area; and Well #6 is located in the Dunn County Rec. Park. These three wells are the primary sources for city water. Well #5 is located just off of 12th Street in a residential area. It is used as an emergency backup well and does not have treatment.

Background Information
We're pleased to report that ***our drinking water is safe*** and meets federal and state requirements.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Findings
The City of Menomonie Water Department routinely monitors the drinking water for contaminants according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the testing results for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2005. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Definitions
In this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (nd): laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter: one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
Action Level: the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
Treatment Technique (TT): A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Maximum Contaminant Level: The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2005)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.027 (average)	.026-.030		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.3 (average)	.0470-.4200		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.3 (average)	1.0-1.6		No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	4.6 (average)	nd-4.90		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	.03 (average)	nd-.10		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (N02-N) (ppm)	1	1	.018 (average)	.005-.030		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	6.17 (average)	5.30-7.50		No	n/a

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2005)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha, excl. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	6.0	3.0-6.0	02/13/2002	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2005)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Bromodichloro-methane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.08 (average)	nd-.58		No	n/a
Chloroform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.21 (average)	nd-.64		No	n/a
Dibromochloro-methane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.04 (average)	nd-.29		No	n/a
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	7.83 (average)	6.50-10.00		No	n/a

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2005)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	.1 (average)	nd-.4		No	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	.0000 (average)	nd-.0003		No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	.0 (average)	nd-.2		No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	.3 (average)	nd-1.5		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

*n/a = not applicable

Please note that many tests are conducted on your water. However, only the listed substances were detected. All detected substances were below the MCL.

What does this mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations, and that the city's drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected but the EPA has determined that your water ***IS SAFE*** at these levels. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) are set at very stringent standards. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In Conclusion

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements are reflected as rate adjustments on the quarterly utility bill. Thank you for understanding. The City of Menomonie works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact David Dowd, Water Department Superintendent at 715-232-2395. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Issues regarding the water utility are discussed at City Council meetings. They are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Check the posted agenda for water related items.